



USAID | AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Badakhshan Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Badakhshan from January 2002 - June 2011: \$248.4 million

Estimated population: 846,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Fayzabad

Note: German-led PRT



The province of Badakhshan extends north beyond the main body of Afghanistan and is bordered by Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south. This sparsely populated region comprises a majority Tajik population and an Uzbek and Kyrgyz minority. Dari is the predominant spoken language. The area, once a stopover on the Silk Road, has been ruled by the Mongols, Arabs, and Russians. In 1925, it became the autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan. Badakhshan was the only Afghan province left unoccupied during the reign of the Taliban. As a result, many of its educational institutions remained intact, leaving it with the highest literacy rates in Afghanistan. The province's rugged landscape is lined with narrow, fertile valleys, and the region is rich in mineral wealth, including gold, lapis, salt, mica, limestone, and coal.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training. Community members in Badakhshan also benefit from training and survey work related to wildlife conservation, which will facilitate future household economic opportunities.

Current Activities:

- Construct rural infrastructure using community labor for increased economic benefit to households; sustainable agricultural production of annual crops (including vegetable and staple crops), perennial crops, and poultry value chain expansion; enterprise development; increasing the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses
- Establish a profitable community-owned enterprise in Ishkashim for the people of Wakhan District whereby individuals can sell their handicrafts and generate income
- Develop the Wakhan-Pamir Association into a self-sustaining organization with the capacity to fund and manage conservation and development activities

Accomplishments:

- Distributed more than \$533,000 in wages on 17 cash-for-work projects



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- Established more than 260 lead farmer plots in 12 districts where 12,000 farmers received training related to modern crop production practices and pest control
- Provided agricultural and livestock inputs to more than 9,100 farmers such as improved vegetable seeds, certified fruit saplings for orchards, fertilizer, pruning tools, pullets, poultry feed, wire mesh, windows, doors for the construction of chicken coops, balanced animal feed, bee hives, empty boxes for bee keeping, and tools
- Improved irrigation systems to make more than 30,000 hectares of farmland more productive
- Established 33 veterinary field units and one veterinary laboratory; trained 40 veterinary staff who are now practicing; and vaccinated 1.27 million animals (healthier animals lead to increased income, food security, and improved local economies)
- Constructed 20 new roads totaling 278 km through the major poppy growing districts
- Built eight bridges and more than 200 culverts to improve both irrigation and transportation
- Provided improved soil stability and water supply to farmers by rehabilitating 355 km of irrigation canals, constructing two dams, and constructing more than 400 erosion barriers
- Strengthened the operational capacity of 12 agricultural cooperatives with more than 6,500 members in five districts
- Constructed an agricultural extension building for the provincial directorate of the MAIL
- Improved the economic livelihoods of 450 women in five districts through home-based nursery and poultry projects that included planting more than 48,500 trees and the installation of plastic tunnels by 130 women to grow herbs and vegetables beyond the traditional growing season
- Provided computer and business skills training to more than 3,580 Afghans
- Constructed 25 root cellars to store potato seed through winter months, protecting it from extreme weather that reduced crop loss due to weather by 50 percent and allow farmers to store and sell potatoes during winter months for a higher profit
- Tripled the electricity generation capacity in Fayzabad and Baharak through upgrades to hydropower plants from rebuilt turbines and new power canals
- Brought 63,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained 13 staff of the provincial agriculture department in natural resource management in partnership with the University of California-Davis
- Assisted Wakhan communities to form the Wakhan-Pamirs Conservation Association, which provided community-based natural resource management of proposed protected areas covering 42 villages
- Piloted Afghanistan's first livestock insurance program in Sarkand village, Wakhan Corridor, in order to help mitigate the impact of livestock depredation by snow leopards, wolves, and lynx.
- Trained 17 men as rangers in the Kyrgyz little Pamir community
- Assisted MAIL to recruit five of the Wakhi community rangers into government ranger jobs, the first government ranger jobs for Badakhshan
- Distributed 442 metric tons of wheat seed and 1,326 metric tons of fertilizer through a voucher system benefitting 8,840 farmers via the 2010 MAIL National Seed Distribution Program

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID builds the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of services to citizens through supporting the justice sector, media, civil-society, and governance development.



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Current Activities:

- Provide institutional capacity-building training and technical assistance to four civil-society organizations
- Support community radio stations in Fayzabad, Baharak, and Jurm districts
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop

Accomplishments:

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 52 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 52 sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 29 judicial candidates
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Provided training to the provincial council, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia scholars
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided institutional capacity-building training and technical assistance to four civil-society organizations
- Established community radio stations in Fayzabad, Baharak, and Jurm districts
- Trained 546 provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Awarded 33 grants

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Badakhshan Province through automating banking



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services, reorganizing land titling documentation, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

Current Activities:

- Provide provincial budgeting support to select line ministries and providing training to provincial officials through the establishment of regional provincial budgeting training hubs
- Promote economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices

Accomplishments:

- Constructed two fruit storage units, a seed cleaning enterprise, and two poultry rearing facilities
- Disbursed more than \$5.1 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government, disbursing all social, payroll, and procurements payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Strengthened Afghanistan's burgeoning private-sector through small business development
- Helped establish 277 new small and medium enterprises and supported an additional 49 in handicrafts, food processing, seed cleaning, honey production, and poultry farming (84 are women-owned businesses)
- Implemented the Core Banking System in the Badakhshan branch of DAB, an automated transaction and financial management system, which dramatically improves service delivery, funds transfer capabilities, and accounting and financial reporting functions
- Installed 27 district communications network centers and two village communications networks operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Badakhshan Mustofiat, dramatically reducing processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through grants, training and consulting to a variety of businesses in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology enabling Afghans to easily access their property documents (prior to the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Supported 18 producer associations, including associations for honey producers, poultry farmers, and silk artisans, creators of embroidery and handicrafts, and seed multipliers
- Helped DAB execute a regional director's workshop in June 2010, hosted by DAB Governor Fitrat and attended by more than 100 DAB head office, branch, and zone officials, focused on implementation of core central bank functions, finalization of new organizational and staffing structure, and automation and modernization goals
- Supported the creation of 12 women public call operators providing economic opportunities for women and improved access to information (each female owner has received technical training in telephone set usage and record keeping)
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 35 students under its capacity-building internship program to build the professional skills of Badakhshan's future business and government leaders
- Trained customs staff from Badakhshan in customs law to build a professional, modern customs authority



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- Trained radio, television, and print journalists on the value of trade and trade issues in order to encourage more and better coverage of trade-related issues
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Badakhshan Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; support community-based education; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability skills instruction.

Summary: USAID contributes to educational improvements in Badakhshan Province through collaboration with two national education projects: one component provides radio-based teacher skill-development courses and another strengthens school management councils and community oversight of schools. USAID works directly with the Ministry of Education to implement activities, but also works through non-governmental organizations and non-government organizations to train personnel, print textbooks, and advance learning opportunities for education faculty professors.

Current Activities:

- Support community-based schools and female adult literacy classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Fund remedial education for girls' schools in two districts
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 74 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Provided teacher training and literacy services to improve classroom education
- Printed and distributed more than 2.63 million primary education textbooks
- Established a Professional Development Center in the faculty of education of the university
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee for teacher assessment
- Constructed nine schools

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Badakhshan Province come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service training for community midwives and community health workers, and refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.



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Current Activities:

- Support 58 health facilities to implement the BPHS and EPHS
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Provide technical support to the Provincial Public Health Department in disease prevention and control
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as condoms, water purification, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Khash, Zebak, Kishm, and Yaftal-e-Sufila districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in 10 sentinel sites
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Fund province-wide community midwifery and Community Health Worker training programs and construct a Midwife Training Center to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Provide technical support to strengthen the Badakhshan Provincial Hospital in order to serve as a referral center for the province and a clinical training site for the community-based midwifery training program
- Support on-the-job training to health facilities based on quality assurance findings to ensure high-quality healthcare delivery
- Support workshops and training to health providers based on gaps identified at health facilities
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Expand the community-based prevention of post-partum hemorrhage initiative for births not attended by skilled providers
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

- Trained almost 6,800 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at two million dollars
- Established a model tuberculosis learning center for health providers
- Graduated 69 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.



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Summary: The infrastructure program in Badakhshan Province improves road, power, and water facilities; builds the capacity of local workers; and supports the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Construct a causeway in Sabz-e-Bahar Village to allow seamless travel along the Kishim-Fayzabad Road
- Maintain the Kishim-Fayzabad Road while building the capacity of the local Ministry of Public Works office to eventually manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors in the future
- Design and rehabilitate four micro-hydro systems and construct a new hydro facility to provide electricity to 9,000 residents of Shuhada, Jurm, Khash, Ishakashim, and Ishkasehim districts
- Assess the feasibility of constructing new potable water supply systems in Kishim, Argo, Daryem, Yawan, Jurm and Zone 6 in Fayzabad
- Upgrade the Fayzabad Airport in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation, and the Asian Development Bank

Accomplishments:

- Upgraded the 103 km Kishim-Fayzabad Road, facilitating travel in all weather conditions, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to markets, health services, and educational institutions for the residents of the 30 villages that the road passes through. The completed road has resulted in many benefits including:
 - Reduced travel times between the two cities from 7-8 hours to 2-3 hours
 - Increased land values along the road from \$3,000/acre to \$20,000/acre in anticipation of increased business opportunities
 - Increased the number of students in school and visits to health clinics as a result of improved access
 - Increased the number of businesses along the road from 90 to 190
- Increased Badakhshan's power supply through the conversion of water mills into micro-hydro power plants and the refurbishment of the Fayzabad Hydroelectric Station
- Facilitated trade and delivery of social services, and rehabilitated 13 roads, including four district center roads in Baharak, Fayzabad, and Kishim districts
- Improved flood control management by constructing five retaining walls
- Upgraded the water supply system in Baharak and the sanitation system of Fayzabad, improving overall public sanitation and hygiene

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community-development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support the purchase of tents to establish a temporary shelter for the Rehman Abad Primary School in Faizabad District that will enable 400 students to continue their education

Accomplishments:



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- Provided capacity-building training to the Provincial Development Council
- Renovated and provided commodities for provincial and district government facilities
- Assisted 12 families (including small business grants and standard furniture and fund kits) who suffered losses as a result of international military operations against anti-government elements